

REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering this application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 16, 25, 38 and 39 are currently pending in this application. Claim 16 is independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 16.

II. Claim Amendments

Claims 16, 25, 38, and 39 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. No new matter has been added by way of these amendments and these amendments are fully supported by the original specification. Applicant notes that the claim amendments were not made in view of prior art.

III. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 112

Claims 16, 25, 38, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. By way of this reply, claims 16, 25, 38, and 39 have been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited, and accordingly, this rejection is now moot.

With respect to claim 16, the term “said reflective surface” in the clause beginning on line 9 has been replaced with “said reflective *plane*.” Further, the term “a light-emitting element” has been clarified in claim 16. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection as it

applies to this claim is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 25, the language “wherein comprises the optical component, the optical device” has been removed from claim 25. As noted above, claim 16, referred by claim 25, does not include the light-emitting element. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection as it applies to the claim is respectfully requested.

With respect to claim 39, as noted above, claim 16 has been amended in view of the rejection. Thus, claim 39, which is dependent on claim 16 indirectly, has also been amended in this reply to clarify the present invention recited. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection as it applies to the claim is respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C § 102

U.S. Patent No. 5,093,768

Claims 16, 25, and 39 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,093,768 (“Ohe”). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 16, as amended, recites a structure of an optical component for a light-emitting element. Specifically, claim 16 includes the limitations “a projection provided at a center of said reflective plane” and “said reflective plane reflects incident light directly from said light-emitting element and passes the light reflected by said curved reflective surface through.”

Ohe, in contrast, does not disclose at least these limitations recited in claim 16. Ohe merely discloses a structure of a signal lamp including a dome-type light emitting diode. Specifically, Ohe does not disclose the projection recited in claim 16. The lens 4,

purportedly equivalent to the reflective plane is substantially flat, and accordingly does not have a projection at the center of the lens 4. Further, Ohe does not disclose the reflective plane recited in claim 16. The lens 4 disclosed in Ohe does not function to reflect incident light directly from the light emitting diode 2. The light from the light emitting diode chip 2a is reflected at the inner surface of the case 2c, not the surface of the lens 4, and emitted outside the diode 2. See Fig. 2 of Ohe. Then, the light emitted outside the diode 2 is reflected by the reflective mirror 3, and passed the lens 4 through. Accordingly, the lens 4 disclosed in Ohe is not the same as, or equivalent to, the reflective plane recited in claim 16.

In view of the above, Ohe fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claim 16. Thus, the claim 16 is patentable over Ohe. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

U.S. Patent No. 6,264,347

Claims 16 and 38 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,264,347 ("Godbillon et al."). For the following reasons, this rejection is respectfully traversed.

Godbillon et al. also does not disclose all of the limitations recited in claim 16. Specifically, Godbillon et al. does not disclose at least the projection recited in claim 16. The Examiner asserts that a portion referred by numeral 35 in Fig. 4 that purportedly corresponds to the projection recited in claim 16 is one of the optically neutral potions of the bonnet 30. See col. 4, lines 35-39 of Godbillon et al. Rather, the bonnet 30 and the optical plate 40 superficially correspond to the recess and the reflective plane recited in claim 16

respectively. The optical plate 40 disclosed in Godbillon is substantially flat and accordingly does not have the projection at the center thereof. Further, Godbillon et al. does not disclose the reflective plane recited in claim 16. The optical plate 40 disclosed in Godbillon et al. does not function as reflecting incident light directly from the light source 20. The striations in the zones S1 to S5 of the optical plate 40 are adapted to align the light ray incident thereon. See col. 3, lines 29-33, and col. 4, lines 44-58. Accordingly, the optical plate 40 disclosed in Godbillon is not the same as, or equivalent to, the reflective plane recited in claim 16.


In view of the above, Godbillon fails to show or suggest the present invention as recited in the claim 16. Thus, the claim 16 is patentable over Godbillon. Dependent claim 38 is allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

V. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 15115.005001).

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Respectfully submitted,


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